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Human Rights Council
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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

South Africa:* draft resolution

32/... Elimination of female genital mutilation

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and all other relevant human rights instruments,

Recalling also its resolution 27/22 of 26 September 2014 on intensifying global efforts and sharing good practices to effectively eliminate female genital mutilation,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 67/146 of 20 December 2012 on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Human Rights Council on measures to eliminate harmful traditional practices that violate the rights of women and girls,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

Welcoming the commitment by States to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[1] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,[2]

Recognizing that female genital mutilation can be an impediment to the full achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Recognizing also that efforts at the local, national, regional and international levels have led to a decline in the global prevalence of female genital mutilation,

Recognizing further the role of regional and subregional instruments and mechanisms in the prevention and elimination of female genital mutilation,

Reaffirming that female genital mutilation is a form of discrimination, an act of violence against women and girls and a harmful practice that constitutes a serious threat to their health, including their psychological, sexual and reproductive health, which can increase adverse obstetric and prenatal outcomes and have fatal consequences for the mother and the newborn, as well as increasing their vulnerability to HIV, and that the elimination of this harmful practice can be achieved only as a result of a comprehensive government-led movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society, including girls and boys, women and men,

Noting that these human rights violations and abuses of the rights of women and girls can jeopardize their full and effective participation in the economic, political, social and cultural development of their country,

Taking note of the Secretary-General's "Unite to End Violence against Women" campaign,

Deeply concerned that, despite the increase in national, regional and international efforts, the practice of female genital mutilation persists in some countries and has seen the development of new forms, such as medicalization and cross-border practice,

Recalling the inter-agency global strategy initiated in 2010 by the World Health Organization to stop health-care providers from performing female genital mutilation,

Bearing in mind that States have primary responsibility for creating favourable conditions to prevent and eliminate female genital mutilation, and for achieving zero tolerance of the practice,

Welcoming the growing global consensus regarding the need to take appropriate measures to prevent and eliminate female genital mutilation, and understanding that this practice has no relevant religious or cultural basis,

Greatly concerned that the significant gap in resources continues and that the shortfall in funding has severely limited the scope and pace of programmes and activities for the elimination of female genital mutilation,

Welcoming the establishment by the United Nations of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, on 6 February, the theme of which is, in 2016, achieving the new global goals through the elimination of female genital mutilation by 2030,

1. *Urges* States to place special emphasis on education, in particular of youth, parents and religious, traditional and community leaders, about the harmful effects of

[1] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[2] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

female genital mutilation, and especially to encourage men and boys to become more involved in information and awareness-raising campaigns and to become agents of change;

2. *Calls upon* States to continue and intensify efforts to provide information and raise awareness about the harmful effects of female genital mutilation and about the continuing increase at the national and international levels in support for eliminating the practice, and to organize activities within this framework during the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation with the involvement of religious and traditional authorities, which make the movement to end female genital mutilation more visible;

3. *Urges* States to adopt national legislation prohibiting female genital mutilation, consistent with international human rights law, and to take steps to ensure its strict application, while working to harmonize their legislation in order to effectively address the cross-border practice of female genital mutilation;

4. *Encourages* States to develop comprehensive policies to combat female genital mutilation involving the Government, the parliament, the judiciary, civil society, youth, the media, the private sector and all relevant stakeholders;

5. *Also encourages* States to develop, support and promote education programmes, as appropriate, including on sexual and reproductive health, that clearly challenge the negative stereotypes and harmful attitudes and practices that sustain female genital mutilation and perpetuate violence and discrimination against women and girls;

6. *Emphasizes* the need for States to systematize, as appropriate, collection of data on female genital mutilation, to encourage and provide financial support for research, particularly at the university level, to use the results to strengthen public information and awareness-raising activities, and to effectively measure progress in eliminating female genital mutilation;

7. *Calls upon* States to provide assistance to victims of female genital mutilation, including through appropriate support services for treatment of the physical, physiological and psychological consequences;

8. *Encourages* States to consider presenting, during the universal periodic review, relevant recommendations on measures to eliminate female genital mutilation;

9. *Encourages* the international community to keep the issue of the elimination of female genital mutilation on the agenda of development policies and to devote special attention to the issue in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;

10. *Calls upon* States to continue to increase technical and financial assistance for the effective implementation of policies, programmes and action plans to eliminate female genital mutilation at the national, regional and international levels;

11. *Invites* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the relevant human rights treaty bodies, in particular the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, to continue to give special consideration to the question of the elimination of female genital mutilation;

12. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question of female genital mutilation in accordance with its programme of work.